

THE PRINCIPAL
A C T S
OF THE
General Assembly
OF THE
C H U R C H
O F
S C O T L A N D.

Convened at EDINBURGH, the 18th Day of *May* 1786.

Collected and extracted from the Records by the Clerks thereof.



EDINBURGH:
Printed by JAMES DICKSON, Printer to the Church
of Scotland.
M,DCC,LXXXVI.

A C T S

CHURCH

SCOTLAND

Conferred at EDINBURGH, the 18th Day of May 1780.

Collected and extracted by the Rev. Mr. James ...

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MDCCLXXVI

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Begun at *Edinburgh*, the 18th Day of *May* 1786, and
concluded the 29th *May* said Year.

I.

The KING's Commission to DAVID Earl
of LEVEN produced, and ordered to
be recorded.

Edinburgh, May 18. 1786.

THE General Assembly of this National Church
being convened and constituted, there was pro-
duced to them, by the Right Honourable DA-
VID Earl of LEVEN, the King's Commission,
sealed with the Seal appointed by the Treaty of Union
to be kept and used in *Scotland*, in place of the Great
Seal

Seal of Scotland, making and constituting him his Majesty's High Commissioner and Representative in this Assembly; which Commission was publicly read with all due honour and respect, and ordered to be recorded in the Books of Assembly. The tenor whereof follows:

GEORGIUS, Dei gratia, Magnæ Britannia, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ Rex, Fidei Defensor: Omnibus probris hominibus, ad quos præsentis literæ pervenerint, Salutem. Quandoquidem nos considerantes, quod generalis ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventus in decimum octavum diem Maii proximi convenire ordinatus fuit; nosque etiam abunde cupidi, et necessarium esse judicantes in commodum dictæ ecclesiæ, ut idem ecclesiæ generalis conventus die statuto debite observetur, atque rebus magni momenti nos alio vocantibus, dicto conventui personaliter interesse nequimus; nosque abunde satisfacti de sufficientia et fidelitate fidelissimi et dilectissimi nostri consanguinei, Davidis Comitis de Leven, quod ad summum munus nostri supremi Commissionarii ad dictum generalem conventum rite exercendum et obeundum usquequaque sit instructus: Noveritis igitur, nos nominasse, constituisse, et ordinasse, tenoreque præsentium, nominare, constituere, et ordinare, memoratum, fidelissimum et prædilectissimum nostrum consanguineum Davidem Comitem de Leven, supremum nostrum Commissionarium dicto generali ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventui, dando et concedendo illi plenam potestatem, commissionem, et warrantum, sacram nostram personam et auctoritatem regalem representandi, nec non præsentiam nostram supplendi, et locum nostrum in dicto subsequenti generali conventu, tanquam Commissionario nostro ad hunc effectum specialiter constituto, tenendi, omnia alia ad imperium et munus Commissionarii pro generali ecclesiæ conventu peragendi, tam plene adeoque libere in quovis respectu, quam quilibet alius in eodem summo munere fecerat, seu quovis tempore præterito facere potuerat, vel ac si nos ipsi personaliter præsentem facere potuerimus. Quæque omnia et singula quæ dictus David Comes de Leven, in hac nostra commissione prosequenda legitime fecerit, seu fieri ordinaverit, nos firmiter approbamus, et ratificamus. Insuper omnibus et singulis dicti conventus et ecclesiæ pastoribus, et presbyteris cæterisque quibuscunque, intra illam partem Magnæ Britannia Scotiam vocatam, subditis nostris, cuiuscunque gradus seu qualitatis, ut dictum Davidem Comitem de Leven, tanquam supremum nostrum Commissionarium, quoad effectum et modum supra mentionatum, revereantur, agnoscant et audiant, stricte præcipimus et mandamus: Atque hanc nostram Commissionem a dicto decimo octavo die Maii proximi incipere, et deinceps durante subsequente sessione dicti generalis conventus in vigore continuare, declaramus,

declaramus, vel usque dum a nobis revocabitur, et exonerabitur. In cujus rei testimonium, huic præsenti cartæ nostræ, sigillum nostrum per unionis tractatum custodiend. et in Scotia, vice et loco Magni Sigilli ejusdem utend. ordinat. appendi mandamus; apud anlam uostram St. James's, duodecimo die mensis Aprilis, anno Domini millesimo septingentesimo et octogesimo sexto, Regnique nostri anno vigesimo sexto.

Per signaturam manu S. D. N. Regis superscript.



II.

The KING's most gracious Letter to the General Assembly, presented to them by his Majesty's Commissioner.

GEORGE R.

RIGHT REVEREND and Well-beloved, We greet you well. It is with great satisfaction, that We avail Ourselves of this opportunity of renewing to you those testimonies of Our paternal affection, which your duty and loyalty to Us, and your steady attention to the important concerns of Religion and Virtue, deserve at Our hands.

We do most willingly countenance your present meeting, with Our Royal approbation and authority, from a firm persuasion, that you will continue to promote the happiness of Our Reign, and that you will apply your whole attention to the pursuit of such measures as may best tend to the support of the Christian faith, the advancement of true religion and piety, and the suppression of irreligion and licentiousness; you may be assured that such a conduct on your part, will, at all times, meet with Our hearty concurrence and support, and that We shall continue in Our determination to preserve and maintain to the Church of Scotland, as by law establish-

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ed,

ed, the full and free enjoyment of its rights and privileges. Having the fullest confidence in the fidelity and abilities of Our Right Trusty, and Right Well-beloved Cousin, David Earl of Leven, from the testimonies We have had of his prudence and diligence in the discharge of so important a trust, We have again appointed him to represent Our Person, being persuaded, that the experience you have had of his steady attachment to Our service, and of his zealous adherence to the Church of Scotland, will render him acceptable to you.

We have only to add Our exhortations, that all unnecessary debates and contentions amongst yourselves may be carefully avoided, and that you will continue in the same steady course, for the advancement of every thing which may increase that unanimity and brotherly love, which will insure a happy and satisfactory conclusion of the present meeting of the General Assembly; and so We bid you heartily farewell. Given at Our Court of St James's, the 11th day of May 1786, in the 26th year of Our Reign.

By his Majesty's Command,

S Y D N E Y.

Addressed thus: To the Right Reverend and Well-beloved the Moderator, Ministers and Elders of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

III.

The General Assembly's Answer to the King's most gracious Letter.

May it please your Majesty,

YOUR Majesty's most gracious letter was presented to us, met in our National Assembly, and considered as an expression of your Royal Favour, received

received with the highest respect, and the warmest gratitude.

We esteem it an high honour to have this our National Assembly countenanced with your Royal Authority. The choice you have made of the Right Honourable the Earl of Leven, to represent your Royal Person in it, is most acceptable to us. His attachment to your Majesty's Person and Government, his abilities for the discharge of this high office, and his well known regard for religion, and for the honour and interests of this Church, as they recommend him to your Majesty's regard, render him highly deserving of ours, and entitle him to the greatest honour and respect from us.

Permit us, most gracious Sovereign, to assure you, that, in all the matters which shall come before us, we shall never lose sight of those important objects which you are pleased to bring into view, the support of the Christian faith, the advancement of true religion and piety, and the suppression of irreligion and licentiousness.

Thankful to your Majesty for your paternal exhortation, to avoid all unnecessary debates and contentions among ourselves, your Majesty may be assured, that our business shall be conducted, as far as possible, with that harmony, good temper, Christian charity, brotherly love and true moderation, which, we know, are necessary to give dignity to our character, weight to our decisions, and success to our ministrations.

Sensible of the many blessings we enjoy under your Majesty's mild and gracious administration, we shall, with indefatigable zeal, endeavour to impress sentiments of loyalty and gratitude on the minds of all your Majesty's subjects under our care.

The assurance your Majesty is pleased to give us, of your determined resolution to protect our Church in all its just rights and privileges, we receive with the greatest pleasure, and rely on with the most entire confidence.

That Almighty God, by whom Kings reign, may preserve your Person, prolong your Reign, establish your Throne in righteousness, bless your Counsels, give success and vigour to your Administration, long preserve you as the Guardian of our Religion and Liberties, render you ever happy at home, and respected abroad: That he may pour down his best blessings upon your
Royal

Royal Confort the Queen, the Prince of Wales, and all the branches of your Royal Family, that their characters may be distinguished for all those virtues that can adorn their exalted station, and endear them to a dutiful people: That Great Britain may remain, to latest posterity, the happy seat of liberty, useful science, and religion, under the auspicious government of Princes descended from your illustrious House; and that, after a long life of eminent and distinguished virtue upon earth, your Majesty may receive the glorious reward of it in heaven, are, and ever shall be, the earnest prayers of,

May it please your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful,

Most obedient,

And most loyal subjects,

The Ministers and Elders met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,

In our presence,

And at our appointment, by

DUNCAN SHAW, *Mod.*

IV.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders for the Reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, and for managing his Majesty's Royal Bounty for that end.

THE General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint the Reverend Dr Duncan Shaw, one of the ministers of Aberdeen, their Moderator, all the ministers

ministers who are members of the Presbytery of Edinburgh, Mr John Couper at Glas, Mr John Grant at Kirkmichael, Mr James Gillan at Speymouth, Mr Alexander Coul at Edinkillie, Mr Patrick Dunbar at Nairn, Mr George Watson at Inverness, Mr David Denoon at Kilcurnan, Mr George Balfour at Tarbat, Mr Charles Calder at Urquhart, Mr Patrick Grant at Boleskin, Mr Martin Macpherson at Slate, Mr Alexander Mackay at Barvas, Mr Edmund Macqueen at Bara, Mr Murdoch Maciver at Lochalsh, Mr William Keith at Kildonan, Mr John Thomson at Duirness, Mr George Mackenzie at Olrich, Mr George Barry at Kirkwall, Mr Francis Liddel at Orphir, Mr William Mitchell at Tingwall, Mr Thomas Robertson at Dalmeny, Mr Robert Pearson at Biggar, Mr Charles Findlater at Linton, Dr Henry Grieve at Dalkeith, Dr George Barclay at Haddington, Mr James Williamson at Whitekirk, Mr George Drummond at Cranshaws, Mr George Tod at Eyemouth, Mr James Richardson at Mackerston, Mr James Hay at Kirktown, Mr Lawrence Johnston at Earlfston, Mr James Erskine at Robertson, Mr Abraham Nivison at Middlebee, Mr William Little at Westerkirk, Mr Thomas Henderson at Drysdale, Mr William Ranken at Sanquhar, Mr James Lawrie at Tinwall, Mr John Johnston at Crossmichael, Dr William Boyd at Ponningham, Mr James Caddel at New Luce, Dr Patrick Woodrow at Tarbolton, Mr James Richmond at Irvine, Dr John Adam at Greenock, Mr John Scott at Strathaven, Mr Joseph Henderson at Wiston, Mr Alexander Ranken at Glasgow, Mr James Graham at Kilearn, Mr Hugh Mactavish at Innerchaflan, Mr George MacIesh at Saddle and Skipness, Mr Archibald Campbell at North Knapdale, Mr Patrick Macdonald at Kilmore, Mr Patrick Macarthur at Torosay, Mr Robert Williamson at Lethindy, Mr David Black at St Madoes, Mr John Musket at Stirling, Mr John Baird at Dunning, Mr John Kinross at Lecropt, Mr Alexander Thomson at Carnock, Mr George Gib at Wemyss, Dr Michael Greenlaw at Creech, Mr Thomas Kettle at Leuchars, Mr John Bruce at Forfar, Mr William Gordon at Elgin, Dr John Scott at Twineholm, Professor George Hill, St Andrew's, ministers; Mr Isaac Grant writer to the Signet, Dr Gregory Grant physician, Edinburgh, Mr Thomas Gordon writer to the Signet, Mr Ludovick Grant *jun.* writer, Bailie John Lothian, Edinburgh, Convener John Lindsay, Bailie William Galloway, Mr Frazer of Gortaleg, the Procurator, Mr Bannatyne-

William Macleod advocate, Professor Hugh Macleod, Bailie Daniel Miller, Mr James Torry merchant, Edinburgh, Mr Malcolm Laing, advocate, Mr John Taylor, clerk to the Signet, Professor Andrew Dalzel, Edinburgh, Bailie James Dickson, Bailie James Gentle, Convener Orlando Hart, William Ramsay of Barnton, Esq; Mr John Gloag merchant, Edinburgh, Mr James Home, writer to the Signet, Mr Hamilton of Spittlehaugh, Mr Matthew Sandilands, writer to the Signet, The Solicitor-General, Mr Richard Tod merchant, Honourable General Mackay, Mr Watson of Towrin, Mr Allan Macdougall, writer to the Signet, Mr Walter Dunbar, Mr James Hogg, Mr Thomas Adair, writer to the Signet, Colonel Campbell of Moonzie, Mr Maclauchlan of Maclauchlan, Mr George Imlach, writer, Mr John Erskine, advocate, Bailie Elder, Mr James Cunningham of Hyndhope, Mr George Fergusson, advocate, Mr Home of Kilduff, Bailie Macdowall, Mr Alexander Bonnar, banker, Mr John Dickson, advocate, Mr Christopher Moubray, cashier to the Friendly Insurance-office, Mr Niel Fergusson, advocate, Dr Andrew Duncan, Mr Thomas Duncan, writer, Mr William Macdonald of St Martin's, Ruling Elders, to be a Committee of this Assembly, for the reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, for promoting the knowledge of true religion, suppressing Popery and profaneness, and for managing the Royal Bounty, for these ends, according to, and in terms of his Majesty's grant to this Assembly. In prosecution of which purposes, the Committee are to appoint Preachers and Catechists, to go to such places as they shall find, upon due information, to be the most proper, according to his Majesty's design, expressed in his warrant; and, in so doing, that they have particular regard to such parishes in South Uist, Small Isles, Glenco, Harris, the countries of Moidart, Glengary, and Lochaber, and the other parishes of the Synods of Glenelg and Argyle, which the Committee shall find, by reason of the vast extent, by the prevalency of Popery and ignorance, and other unhappy circumstances, to be in the greatest distress: And they shall take care, that the persons they employ be certified, and found, upon due trial, to be properly qualified for these respective offices, of good abilities for the same, of a pious life and conversation, prudent, of undoubted loyalty to his Majesty, and of competent skill in the principles of Divinity, and particularly in Popish controversies: Such Preachers and Catechists being hereby appointed to be subject to, and under

der the inspection of the Presbyteries of the bounds to which they are sent, who are to take care that the orders of the Committee be duly observed by them. And the Preachers are also appointed to catechise, and both they and the Catechists to instruct the people from house to house, and to visit the sick; and, in all their labour among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Christian Protestant religion, and the obligations they are under to duty and loyalty to our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws: And the Committee are empowered to give them such instructions, as to their work and behaviour, as they shall judge meet; which instructions the Preachers and Catechists are hereby ordered to obey. The General Assembly do further appoint the said Committee, to have a particular regard in their proceedings, to the regulations agreed upon by the Committee of the Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approved by frequent Assemblies: And to take care that Presbyteries, and others concerned, observe the same, which they are hereby ordered to do: Particularly, the Assembly ordains the several Presbyteries to insert in their registers, the Committee's appointments of the designations, salaries, and stations of the several missionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all the letters they shall write about the said missionaries, and in giving of certificates to them; and to direct all their letters, concerning missionaries in their bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee; which letters shall be signed, at the appointment of the Presbytery, by the Moderator or Clerk thereof: And the Assembly does discharge any payment to be made of the salaries of the missionaries, except upon receipts from the missionaries themselves, and upon certificates from the Presbyteries, bearing, That they have served for the time mentioned in the receipts; And that every Catechist, who receives a salary from the Royal Bounty, on condition that the parishioners or gentlemen of the district shall pay a certain sum in aid of such salary, shall insert, in the body of his receipt to the Cashier, a declaration that he has received the particular sum specified; and that the attestation of the Presbytery shall in like manner bear, that the Catechist has received the stipulated sum which the Committee make the condition of his appointment; it being understood by this resolution, that the several stations, with regard to which such conditions were originally made by the Committee, when no such declaration

declaration of the Catechist, or attestation of the Presbytery, as is now proposed, is received by the Cashier, shall be afterwards suppressed by the Committee, though the Catechist shall, notwithstanding, receive the salary for the time he is certified to have performed his duty. That a journal of the itinerant's labours in the ministry, of the mission committed to him, be written on the back of the Presbytery's certificate, and signed by him, as the ground on which the Presbytery have granted him said certificate. The General Assembly do also empower the said Committee to apply, for the purposes above mentioned, what may remain of the last year's Royal Bounty not disposed of, by reason of any of the missionaries not fulfilling the appointments laid upon them; and that they are to keep a register of their proceedings, and likewise distinct books of accounts, how the foresaid money is bestowed, which shall be patent to any concerned who please to inspect the same. Of the persons above named as members of this Committee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be ministers. But it is hereby appointed, That, at the quarterly meeting of the Committee, in which the scheme or establishment of missionaries for the ensuing year is to be approved and determined, not less than fourteen shall be the quorum, whereof nine shall be ministers; and the said Committee are appointed to have their general meetings at Edinburgh, the first lawful day after the adjournment of each of the four stated diets of the Commission of the General Assembly, within the Assembly ayle, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, except that day shall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting shall be upon Monday next thereafter, at the said hour; with power to the said Committee to adjourn themselves to such times and places as they shall find most needful and convenient: And they are to keep a correspondence with the Commission of the General Assembly, and the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, and their Committee of Directors, and to take their advice and assistance; and also to correspond with the Synods and Presbyteries concerned. They are likewise instructed and empowered, as they shall see cause, to apply to the Government, or any Magistrate, for assistance and support in carrying on the design of the commission now given to them. And the General Assembly do appoint Mr William Robertson advocate, Procurator for the Church, and Receiver of the foresaid Royal Bounty, to pay out the same, as he shall be directed and ordered

dered by the foresaid Committee, and according to their rules. And the said Committee are appointed to examine the accounts of the distribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the same before the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, or the Barons of his Majesty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their diligence to the General Assembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, That no person once employed and insert in the scheme, shall be struck out thereof for that year, but by the quorum of at least fourteen, whereof nine to be ministers; and in case any complaint shall be made against any of them on the scheme, it shall not be determined the first ordinary meeting that the same is offered, but it shall lie on the table till another meeting; and in the mean time the person complained of, and the Presbytery of the bounds wherein he officiates, shall be acquainted of such complaint, and those concerned be required to send to the said Committee a just account of the matter against the next meeting. And it is further appointed, That after the yearly scheme of missionaries on the Royal Bounty is settled in manner above directed, and notice thereof given by letters to the Presbyteries concerned, such Presbyteries shall send up to the said Committee their answer to these letters, at farthest with their Commissioners to the General Assembly, if the same be not done sooner; and that the Committee, at their first meeting after the General Assembly, shall endeavour to complete the next year's scheme themselves; and if they cannot complete it, they shall name a Subcommittee of their number for that purpose, who are to lay their draught thereof before a subsequent meeting, which is appointed to meet as soon after the rising of the Assembly as possible. And empowered the Committee, at their first meeting, to reject any petition for a new station, in case they shall find sufficient objections against it; and that the said Committee, in making up the scheme of missionaries, &c. do not exceed the sum in the grant.

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Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for discussing Affairs referred to them.

THE General Assembly, considering there are some affairs, which they cannot overtake, do hereby nominate and appoint the Reverend Dr Duncan Shaw, one of the ministers of Aberdeen, their moderator ; from the presbytery of Meigle, Mr John Halyburton at Kettins, Mr James Edward at Lentrathen, Mr James Playfair at Bendochy, ministers, Patrick Alison of Newhall, Esq; ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Forfar, Mr John Bruce at Forfar, Mr Thomas Ogilvie at Kirrymuir, ministers, Alexander Watson, Esq; younger of Turin, ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Dundee, Mr James Scott at Auchterhouse, Mr Thomas Constable at Liff, Mr David Spence at Kinnaird, ministers, Mr George Imlach writer in Edinburgh, ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Aberbrothock, Mr William Milligan at Kirkden, Mr Alexander Mackie at Arbroath, ministers, Mr Thomas Milne merchant in Canongate, ruling elder ; from the burgh of Aberbrothock, Mr Thomas Duncan writer in Edinburgh ; from the presbytery of Brechin, Mr James Lauder at Dun, Mr Andrew Gray at Caryston, Mr Alexander Mollison at Montrose, ministers, Alexander Burnet, Esq; advocate, ruling elder ; from the burgh of Montrose, Mr William Leslie, writer to the Signet ; from the presbytery of Fordoun, Mr Robert Young at Benholm, Mr Alexander Leslie at Fordoun, Mr Robert Foote at Fettercairn, ministers, Mr John Playfair, Professor of Mathematics, Edinburgh, ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Aberdeen, Dr John Brown at Newhills, Dr John Drysdale, one of the ministers of Edinburgh, in place of the Moderator, Mr Robert Dunbar at Old Machar, Mr Robert Wyatt at Skeene, ministers, Mr James Hogg in Aberdeen, James Cunninghame, Esq; of Hyndhope, ruling elders ; from the King's College, Mr Roderick Macleod, Sub-principal ; from the presbytery of Kincardine-o'neal, Dr John Ogilvie at Midmar, Mr Thomas Gordon at Aboyne, Mr William Morrice at Kincardine-o'neal, ministers, William Macdonald,

Macdonald, Esq; of St Martin's, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Alford, Mr Robert Findlay at Clatt, Mr Robert Lumfden at Kildrummy, Mr Benjamin Mercer at Forbes, ministers, John Gordon, Esq; of Craig, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Garrioch, Mr George Skeene-Keith at Keith-hall, Mr Alexander Duff at Monymusk, Mr John Harper at Leslie, ministers, George Buchan-Hepburn of Smeaton, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Deer, Mr William Taylor at New-Deer, Mr Alexander Simpson at Fraserburgh, Mr William Anderson at Strichen, ministers, Mr John Taylor clerk to the Signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Turriff, Mr William Stewart at Turriff, Mr Robert Ballingall at Forglen, ministers, Mr Alexander Forbes writer, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Fordyce, Mr Walter Chalmers at Deskford, Mr Alexander Milne at Boyndie, ministers, Mr John Robertson writer, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Strathbogie, Mr John Coupar at Glas, Mr Alexander Angus at Bortriphnie, ministers, Mr Baron Gordon, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Aberlour, Mr John Grant at Boharm, Mr John Dunbar at Knockando, ministers, Mr Isaac Grant writer to the Signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Abernethy, Mr John Grant at Kirkmichael, Mr John Anderson at Kingusie, ministers, Dr Gregory Grant physician in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Elgin, Mr William Gordon at Elgin, Mr James Gillan at Speymouth, ministers, Mr Thomas Gordon writer to the Signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Forres, Mr Alexander Watt at Forres, Mr Alexander Coull at Edinkellie, ministers, Walter Dunbar, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Forres, Mr Ludovick Grant, *jun.* writer in Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Nairn, Mr Patrick Dunbar at Nairn, Mr Pryce Campbell at Arderfier, ministers, Bailie John Lothian merchant, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Inverness, Mr George Watson at Inverness, Mr John Mackilican at Dores, ministers, Robert Macintosh, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Inverness, Alexander Baillie, Esq; of Dochfour; from the presbytery of Chanonry, Mr James Monro at Cromarty, Mr David Denoon at Kilearnan, ministers, Convener John Lindsay, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Tain, Mr George Balfour at Tarbat, Mr Alexander Monro at Edderston, ministers, Right Honourable Lord Ankerville, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dingwall, Mr Harry Robertson at Kiltairn, Mr Charles Calder at Urquhart, ministers, Bailie William

William Galloway, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Abertarph, Mr Patrick Grant at Bolefskine, Mr Thomas Ross at Kilmanivaig, ministers, James Frazer of Gortoleg, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Sky, Mr Martin Macpherson at Slate, Mr Donald Mackinnon at Strath; ministers, the Right Honourable Lord Macdonald, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lewis, Mr Alexander Mackay at Barvas, Mr John Frazer at Lochs, ministers, the Procurator, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Uist, Mr George Monro at South Uist, Mr Edmund Macqueen at Bara, ministers, Alexander Macleod, Esq; of Harris, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lochcarron, Mr Murdoch Maciver at Lochalsh, Mr Lauchlan Mackenzie at Lochcarron, ministers, Banantyne William-Macleod, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dornoch, Mr William Mackenzie at Afint, Mr William Keith at Kildonnan, ministers, Professor Hugh Macleod, Glasgow, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Tong, Mr Alexander Falconer at Edrachilles, Mr John Thomson at Duirness, ministers, the Honourable General Mackay, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Caithness, Mr Robert Gun at Latheron, Mr George Mackenzie at Olrich, ministers, Bailie Daniel Miller merchant in Canongate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Wick, Sir John Sinclair of Murkle, Bart.; from the presbytery of Kirkwall, Mr William Anderson at Evie and Rendal, Mr George Barry at Kirkwall, ministers, Mr James Torry merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the burgh of Kirkwall, Mr Malcolm Laing advocate; from the presbytery of Cairstone, Mr John Falconer at Stromness, Mr Francis Liddle at Orphir, ministers, Mr John Taylor, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Zetland, Mr William Mitchel at Tingwal, Mr James Sands at Lerwick, ministers, Professor Andrew Dalzel, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Edinburgh, Mr Thomas Scott at South Leith, Mr Thomas White at Libberton, Sir Harry Moncrief-Wellwood, West Church, Mr Robert Walker, Canongate, Dr James Macknight, Edinburgh, Mr John Logan, South Leith, ministers, William Ramsay of Barnton, Esq; Bailie James Gentle, Canongate, ruling elders; from the city of Edinburgh, the Right Honourable James Hunter-Blair, Lord Provost, Mr Orlando Hart, Deacon-convener of the Trades; from the University of Edinburgh, Mr William Greenfield, Professor of Rhetoric and Belles Lettres; from the presbytery of Linlithgow,

Linlithgow, Mr Thomas Robertson at Dalmeny, Mr Walter Jardine at Bathgate, Mr John Willison at West-Calder, Mr John Aitchison at Falkirk, ministers, Honourable Captain Robert Sandilands, Mr John Gloag, merchant, Edinburgh, ruling elders; from the burgh of Linlithgow, Provost Robert Clark; from the burgh of Queensferry, Captain James Taylor; from the presbytery of Biggar, Mr John Bradfoot at Dunfire, Mr John Thomson at Walston, Mr Robert Pearson at Biggar, ministers, Mr James Home writer to the Signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Peebles, Mr Alexander Adams at Traquair, Mr Charles Findlater at Linton, ministers, Right Honourable Lord Chief Baron, ruling elder; from the burgh of Peebles, Andrew Hamilton of Spittlehaugh, Esq; from the presbytery of Dalkeith, Dr John Main at Newton, Mr Thomas Macourtie at Penny-cuick, Dr Henry Grieve at Dalkeith, ministers, the Right Honourable Lord President, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Haddington, Mr Patrick Bannerman at Salton, Dr George Barclay at Haddington, Mr Niel Roy at Aberladies, ministers, Right Honourable Earl of Hyndford, ruling elder; from the burgh of Haddington, David Smith, Esq; Provost of Haddington; from the burgh of North Berwick, Charles Brown of Coalston, Esq; from the presbytery of Dunbar, Mr David Spence at Cockburnspath, Mr James Williamson at Whitekirk, ministers, James Wilkie, Esq; of Gilkerstone, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dunfermline, Mr Robert Home at Polwart, Mr George Drummond at Cranshaws, ministers, Matthew Sandilands of Couston, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Churnside, Mr John Jolly at Coldinghame, Mr George Tod at Eymouth, ministers, John Stewart, Esq; younger of Allanbank, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Kelso, Mr Cornelius Lundie at Kelso, Mr James Richardson at Mackerston, ministers, the Honourable Henry Dundas, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Jedburgh, Mr Robert Deans at Crailing, Mr Thomas Sommerville at Jedburgh, Mr James Hay at Kirkcubright, ministers, the Solicitor-general, ruling elder; from the burgh of Jedburgh, the Honourable Henry Erskine advocate; from the presbytery of Lauder, Mr Alexander Duncan at Gordon, Mr Laurence Johnstone at Earlieston, ministers, the Right Honourable Earl of Lauderdale, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Selkirk, Mr James Erskine at Robertson, Mr Frederick MacLaggan at Melrose, ministers, Mark Pringle of Fairnlee, Esq; ruling elder; from

the burgh of Selkirk, Mr Richard Tod merchant, Leith; from the presbytery of Annan, Mr John Craig at Ruthwell, Mr Abraham Nivison at Middlebee, ministers, Sir William Maxwell of Springkell, Bart. ruling elder; from the burgh of Annan, Mr Walter Scott merchant, Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Langholm, Mr Robert Rutherford at Castletoun, Mr William Little at Westerkirk, ministers, Gideon Rutherford, Esq; of Greenpark, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lochmaben, Dr John Burges at Kirkmichael, Mr Thomas Henderson at Drysdale, Mr William Sibbald at Johnston, ministers, Mr John Coupland at Minnygape, ruling elder; from the burgh of Lochmaben, Alexander Fergusson of Craigdarroch, Esq; from the presbytery of Penpont, Mr John Robertson at Kirkconnel, Mr William Ranken at Sanquhar, ministers, Mr Robert Edgar, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dumfries, Dr David Lamont at Kirkpatrick-Durham, Mr William Macmorine at Carlaverock, Mr James Laurie at Tinwall, ministers, Mr Charles Barry at Nethertoun, ruling elder; from the burgh of Dumfries, Mr John Aitken, town-clerk of Dumfries; from the presbytery of Kirkcudbright, Dr John Scot at Twyneholm, Mr John Johnstone at Croftmichael, Mr John Gillespie at Kells, ministers, Mr John Macmorin in Crofts, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Wigton, Mr Ebenezer Stott at Minniegaff, Dr William Boyd at Penningham, ministers, Bailie John Hathorn, Wigton, ruling elder; from the burgh of Whitehorn, John Bushby, Esq; Sheriff-clerk of Dumfries; from the presbytery of Stranrawer, Mr James Mochrie at Colmonell, Mr James Cadall at New Luce, ministers, Thomas Adair, Esq; of Genoch, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Ayr, Mr William Auld at Machline, Mr John Macdairmed-Fergushill at Straton, Mr James Connel at Sorn, Dr Patrick Wodrow at Tarbolton, Mr James Thomson at Girvan, ministers, John Hamilton of Bargeny, Esq; William Campbell of Fairfield, Esq; ruling elders; from the burgh of Ayr, George Fergusson, Esq; advocate; from the presbytery of Irvine, Mr Henry Graham at Cumbray, Mr Thomas Pollock at Kilwinning, Mr James Richmond at Irvine, ministers, Honourable Patrick Boyle of Shewelton, ruling elder; from the burgh of Irvine, Thomas Tweedie of Oliver, Esq; from the presbytery of Paisley, Mr Colin Campbell at Renfrew, Dr John Adam at Greenock, Mr Colin Gillies at Paisley, Mr John Monteith at Neilston, ministers, Mr John Haddoway merchant, Leith, Bailie John Smith
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in Paisley, ruling elders; from the presbytery of Hamilton, Mr Henry Stevenson at Blantyre, Mr John Scott at Strathaven, Mr Alexander Fleming at Hamilton, ministers, Henry Stewart, Esq; of Allanton, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lanark, Mr James Fergusson at Pettynain, Mr Joseph Henderson at Wyfton, ministers, Mr George Scot, schoolmaster at Carnwath, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Glasgow, Dr William Porteous at Glasgow, Mr Alexander Ranken at Glasgow, Mr Alexander Dobie at Eagleshame, Mr David Dow at Cathcart, ministers, Mr Andrew Paton merchant, Glasgow, Bailie John Macaslan, seedsman there, ruling elders; from the University of Glasgow, Dr Robert Finlay; from the presbytery of Dumbarton, Mr George Drummond at Roseneath, Mr James Graham at Killearn, Mr John Stewart at Lufs, ministers, Sir James Colquhoun of Lufs, Bart. ruling elder; from the burgh of Dumbarton, James Colquhoun, Esq; - younger of Lufs; from the presbytery of Dunoon, Mr James Thorburn at Kingarth, Mr Hugh MacTavish at Innerchaolan, ministers, Jo. Lamont, Esq; of Lamont, ruling elder; from the burgh of Rothsay, Mr John Home of Kilduff; from the presbytery of Kintyre, Mr John Maccleish at Kilchonan, Mr Dugald Macdugald at Gigha, Mr George Maccleish at Saddle, ministers, Mr Archibald Macdowal merchant, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Inverary, Mr Dugald Campbell at Glassary, Mr Archibald Campbell at North Knapdale, ministers, Donald Macclauclan of Macclauclan, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Inverary, Professor James Williamson, Glasgow; from the presbytery of Lorn, Mr Patrick Macdonald at Kilmore, Dr Joseph Macintyre at Glenorchy, ministers, Colonel Robert Campbell of Monzie, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Mull, Mr Patrick Macarthur at Torosay, Mr Norman Macleod at Morvan, ministers, Allan Macdougall of Galanish, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dunkeld, Mr Robert Williamson at Leithindy, Mr Thomas Fleming at Kenmore, Mr William Inverarity at Caputh, Mr James Peter Bannerman at Cargill, ministers, Mr Thomas Elder merchant, Edinburgh, Mr David Stewart banker, Edinburgh, ruling elders; from the presbytery of Perth, Mr David Beatson at Dumbarnie, Mr Lewis Dunbar at Kinnoul, Mr David Black at St Madoes, Mr David Dow at Dron, ministers, Mr Alexander Bonnar banker, Edinburgh, John Dickson, Esq; advocate, ruling elders; from the presbytery

bytery of Stirling, Mr James Frame at Alloa, Mr John Mushet at Stirling, ministers, John Erskine, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Auchterarder, Mr John Scott at Muthill, Mr John Baird at Duning, Mr Thomas Barty at Maonzie, ministers, Mr Christopher Moubray, Insurance-office, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dumblane, Mr William Osburn at Tillycoultry, Mr John Kinross at Lecropt, ministers, Professor Richardson, Glasgow, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dunfermline, Mr Andrew Richardson at Inverkeithing, Mr Robert Liston at Aberdour, Mr Alexander Thomson at Carnock, ministers, Sir Charles Preston of Valleyfield, Bart. ruling elder; from the presbytery of Kirkcaldy, Mr John Thomson at Marckinch, Mr George Gib at Wemyss, Mr James Lawrie at Balingray, ministers, Ja. Townsend Oswald Esq; of Dunniker, ruling elder; from the burgh of Kirkcaldy, Mr James Fergus; from the burgh of Kinghorn, Mr Andrew Hamilton, present Provost of Kinghorn; from the presbytery of Cupar, Dr Michael Greenlaw at Creech, Mr Robert Bogie at Logie, Mr Robert Arnot at Ceres, Mr Thomas Stewart at Newburgh, ministers, Robert Herriot, Esq; of Ramornie, Mr Henry Hardie at Newburgh, ruling elders; from the burgh of Cupar, Major John Melville of Cairny; from the presbytery of St Andrew's, Principal James Gillespie, St Andrew's, Dr Robert Dalgliesh at Ferry Par-ton-Craigs, Mr Thomas Kettle at Leuchars, Mr James Nairn at Pittenweem, ministers, Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Monypenny of Pitmellie, Niel Fergusson, Esq; of Pitcullo, ruling elders; from the burgh of St Andrew's, Dr Andrew Duncan physician, Edinburgh; from the University of St Andrew's, Professor George Hill; to be Commissioners of this General Assembly, to the effect after mentioned; with power to the said Commissioners, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the said Commissioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be ministers, to meet and convene within the Assembly-house at Edinburgh, the first day after the dissolution of this Assembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon; and thereafter, the second Wednesday of August, third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftener, when and where they shall think fit and convenient, with power to the said Commissioners to chuse their own Moderator: And likewise, the General Assembly fully empowers their said Commissioners, or their quorum above mentioned,

to

to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by an act or order of this Assembly; and to do every thing contained in, and conform to the instructions given, or to be given by this Assembly; and to advert to the interest of the Church on every occasion, that the Church, and present establishment thereof, do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Provided always, that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries, that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private processes be determined, except at the four stated diets; and what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission, with relation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved of by the General Assembly. And the Assembly renews the instructions given by the General Assembly in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventeen to their Commission, and appoints the same to stand in full force as instructions to the Commissioners before named, and to be observed by them in all points, as if the same were specially here inserted; and that they enquire into the publishing and spreading of books and pamphlets, tending towards the promoting of opinions of whatever kind, inconsistent with our *Confession of Faith*; and that the recommenders of such books or pamphlets, or the errors therein contained, whether by word, writ, or print, be called before the said Commission to answer for the same. And further, the said Commission is hereby empowered to receive any references and appeals that shall be made to them from Synods, in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for the next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppressing of vice and immorality, and give all needful advice and assistance to Synods and Presbyteries, upon application to them for that end: Likewise, to take care that the impressions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confession of Faith*, and *Catechisms*, and such books as are authorized by this Church, relating to the doctrine, worship, discipline and government thereof, be correct; and give directions about printing the same. And the Commissioners are appointed and empowered to keep a correspondence with the Committee for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands, for suppression

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pressing Popery and superstition, and for promoting the knowledge of true religion, and carrying on a reformation in these parts, and give assistance and concurrence therein; and, if need be, to apply to the Government for a proper remedy and speedy redress. And the said Commissioners are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above mentioned: And, in all their actings, they are to proceed according to the acts and constitution of this Church; and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same; declaring, that, in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to, and censurable by the next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And the General Assembly appoints the said Commissioners particularly to observe the acts of the General Assemblies one thousand seven hundred and twelve, and one thousand seven hundred and nineteen, respecting the application of the public money; which two acts are printed among the Acts of Assembly one thousand seven hundred and sixty-one. And this Commission is to continue and endure until another Commission be appointed; and members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission; and absents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th Act of the General Assembly held in the year one thousand seven hundred and six. And for the better securing of a quorum, and attendance of members on the Commission, the General Assembly prohibits the Presbytery of Edinburgh, or any other Presbytery within twelve miles thereof, to meet on any of the days or weeks appointed for the meeting of this Commission; and such of the members of these Presbyteries as are on the Commission, are required, all of them to give attendance on the diets thereof; and the Presbyteries at a greater distance, who have four or more members on the Commission, are to take care, that at least two of them attend each diet of the same: And the General Assembly appoint their Commission, at their first meeting, to discuss as many of the causes and questions relative to the settlement of vacant churches, which are or shall be referred to them by the Assembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, that when any Presbytery or Synod of this Church shall decline to comply with the sentence of the Commission, or to give the same a full execution, in that case the Commission is hereby prohibited to execute the same, by appointing any such correspondent
meeting,

meeting, as has been some time the practice, but shall allow the same to lie over to the ensuing Assembly, to which such Presbyteries or Synods shall be answerable for such their conduct, and are hereby appointed to send up with their Commissioners their reasons for the same. And that in passing their sentences, and in ordering the execution of the same, they strictly observe the 12th Act of the Assembly one thousand seven hundred and thirty-six.

VI.

Interim Act and Overture concerning
Ordained Assistants.

Edinburgh, May 29. 1784.

THE General Assembly having considered the report of their Committee, appointed to take under their consideration the reference from the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, concerning ordained assistants; are of opinion, That both the Minister of the parish, and his ordained assistant and successor, ought to be constituent members of the Kirk-Session; that in the Presbytery and Synod, either of them who is present, may deliberate and vote; that if both are present, these privileges belong to the Minister of the parish only; and that either of them is capable of being elected a Member of the General Assembly, but not both of them in one year. And agreed to enact the same as an Interim Act, and to transmit it as an Overture for the consideration of Presbyteries.

VII.

VII.

Recommendation respecting Ordination to the Office of a Minister, without relation to a particular charge.

Edinburgh, May 31. 1784.

THE Committee appointed to consider the Overture respecting Ordination to the office of a Minister, without relation to a particular charge, reported as follows: Having carefully considered the said Overture, find that matter attended with so many difficulties, that they are not ripe to propose to the General Assembly any precise rules concerning it, fit for being enacted into standing laws; and can only move, That the Assembly should, in the mean time, recommend it to Presbyteries to be cautious in granting ordination to such persons as have neither a fixed charge, nor a reasonable prospect of such provision as may enable them to support the ministerial character; and that no Presbytery grant ordination to any person who has a near prospect of removing from the bounds of that Presbytery into another, from whom he may, in due time, receive ordination, if it shall by them be found necessary or proper. Which being considered by the General Assembly, they approved thereof, and do recommend accordingly, and order this Recommendation to be printed in the Acts of this Assembly.

VIII.

Overture respecting the Ordination of Elders.

Edinburgh, May 31. 1784.

WHEREAS, great irregularities have crept into the Church, with respect to the ordination of Elders, the General Assembly overtures, That it be enacted,
That

That no Minister should set apart any person to the office of Elder in his congregation, who has not a fixed residence in the parish, or who is not an heritor in the parish; it being the true meaning and intent of this Overture, to prevent Elders being ordained in congregations who are in nowise connected with them: And it being understood, that any city or town, where there are more congregations than one, shall be held as one parish, so far as respects the purpose of this Overture.



IX.

The Assembly agreed to transmit the following Overture to Presbyteries.

Edinburgh, May 27. 1786.

THAT such an indulgence as shall seem meet to the Assembly, may be granted to the Students having the Gaelic language in the Northern and Western Isles.



X.

Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.

THE next General Assembly of this National Church is appointed to be held within the New Church Ayle of Edinburgh, on Thursday the 17th day of May, in the year 1787.

Collected and extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by

JOHN DRYSDALE, Cl. Eccl. Scot.

TABLE of the Printed ACTS of the General Assembly, held in the Year 1786.

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ABRIDGMENT

A B R I D G M E N T

OF THE

ACTINGS and PROCEEDINGS of the General Assembly
of the Church of Scotland, held in the year 1786,
which are not printed at full length.

May 18. 1786. *Sess. 1st.*

AFTER sermon by the Reverend Dr John Drysdale, one of the ministers of Edinburgh, Moderator of Assembly 1784, in place of the Reverend Sir Harry Moncrieff-Wellwood, Moderator of the last General Assembly, who was confined by indisposition, the Ministers and Elders convened in the Assembly-house; and, after prayer by the Reverend Dr Henry Grieve, minister at Dalkeith, who was a member of Assembly, and the immediate preceding Moderator to Dr Drysdale, who was not a member of this Assembly, and was to officiate as clerk thereto, the Assembly proceeded to the choice of a Moderator, when Dr Grieve proposed Dr Duncan Shaw, one of the ministers of Aberdeen. No other person being added to the nomination, the roll was called, and votes marked; and the Assembly unanimously made choice of the said Dr Duncan Shaw to be their Moderator, who, at the Assembly's desire, took the chair.

A letter was presented, addressed to the Moderator, from Sir Harry Moncrieff, late Moderator, apologising for his non-attendance, which was unanimously sustained. The King's Commission to the Right Honourable David Earl of Leven, to represent his Majesty's Royal Person, read, and ordered to be recorded.

The King's most gracious Letter to the Assembly, read, and ordered to be recorded.

The Commissioner's speech at opening this Assembly, and the Moderator's speech in return thereto.

A Committee named for answering the King's most gracious Letter.

A Committee named for revising the commissions to the members of this Assembly, censuring absents from the diets thereof, naming Ministers to preach before his

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Grace

A B R I D G M E N T. 1786.

Grace the King's Commissioner, and receiving in lists of the probationers in the several presbyteries, in order to their being recorded.

A Committee for overtures named.

A Committee for bills, references and appeals named.

The Procurator brought up the report of the Committee of last Assembly, appointed to prepare a new Form of Process. The same ordered to lie on the table.

Adjournment.

May 19. 1786. Sess. 2d.

Sederunt

A diet spent in prayer.

New commissions produced.

The Committee for revising commissions appointed to meet this evening.

Act VII. of Assembly 1718, for the better dispatch of the business of this Assembly, read, and the observations thereof enjoined.

Ministers named to preach before his Grace the Commissioner.

The Committees for overtures and bills appointed to meet this evening in their usual places.

Adjournment.

May 20. 1786. Sess. 3d.

Sederunt.

New commissions produced.

The report of the Committee for overtures called for, given in, and read.

The draught of an answer to the King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly, brought in, and approved; and his Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's request, undertook to transmit the same to his Majesty.

The objection to the commission from the presbytery of Linlithgow, "That the minister chosen at an after election is attested in the form prescribed for the elder, as well as the minister," repelled, and the commission sustained.

The objection to the commission from the presbytery of Arbroath, "That the word *all* is omitted before the words *the ministers*," repelled, and the commission sustained.

The objection to the commission from the presbytery of Selkirk, "That it has the word *both* in place of the word *all* before *the ministers*," repelled, and the commission sustained.

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The commission from the burgh of Kinghorn rejected, because the election was made upon the 14th of April, which is not forty days previous to the sitting of the Assembly. The commissioner's name ordered to be expunged from the roll.

The commission from the burgh of Dumbarton rejected, because the minute of election is extracted by a person who has not adjoined to his subscription the word *clerk*. The commissioner's name ordered to be expunged from the roll.

The objection to the commissions from the burghs of Inverary and Dumfries, "That they both want the words *attested by* in the attestation by the Kirk-session," repelled, and both these commissions sustained.

The commission from the burgh of Irvine rejected, because in the attestation by the Kirk-session, after the words *attested by*, it has the following additional words, *us in terms of the evidence laid before us*. The commissioner's name ordered to be expunged from the roll.

The commission from the burgh of North Berwick rejected, because it wants the name of the burgh after the words *town-council of*; and also, because the attester has not adjoined the word *clerk* to his subscription. The commissioner's name ordered to be expunged from the roll.

The objection to the commission from the burgh of Montrose, "That it has the words *one* and *two* o'clock, in place of the words *one* and *eight* o'clock," repelled, and the commission sustained.

The objection to the commission from the presbytery of Lewis, "That it was blank as to the day of the sitting of the Assembly," repelled; and the commission sustained.

The consideration of the objection to the commission from the burgh of Whithorn, delayed till Monday.

The objection to the commission from the burgh of Annan, "That it is blank as to the day of the sitting of the Assembly," repelled, and the commission sustained.

The commission from the burgh of Jedburgh rejected, because the resolution to elect is on the 29th of March, and the election on the 5th of April. The commissioner's name ordered to be expunged from the roll.

The roll of causes transmitted by the Committee of Bills, called for, produced and read.

Resolved

A B R I D G M E N T. 1786.

Resolved to consider on Monday the petition and memorial of the Northumberland class of Protestant Dissenting Ministers; and after that, the dissenting taking Mr Bennet on trials. On Tuesday, the Sketch of the New Form of Process. And on Wednesday, the complaint of Jean Purves against Mr Jolly, and he summoned *apud acta* to sit himself personally.

Resolved, That after those already fixed in the order of private causes, the cause of the parish of Moy and Dalrossie should be first heard, and after that the cause of the parish of Dalton.

A Committee named to revise the record of the actings and proceedings of the Commission of the late General Assembly.

A Committee named to revise the record of the actings and proceedings of the Committee appointed by last Assembly, for managing the Royal Bounty for the Reformation of the Highlands and Islands.

A Committee named to audit the Procurator and Agent's accounts, consider the state of the public money, and prepare overtures about the same.

The Committee for overtures empowered to receive in from the several members any instructions given to them by their respective Synods or Presbyteries, class the matters therein contained, and prepare overtures thereupon to the Assembly; and receive in, and consider any accounts that shall be given them of the state of the Church in the North Highlands, particularly concerning the growth of Popery and superstition; and prepare overtures for preventing or suppressing thereof.

The Committee for revising commissions, and the Committee for bills, appointed to meet this evening.

Adjournment.

May 22. 1786. Sess. 4th.

Sederunt.

New commissions produced.

The report of the Committee for overtures, produced and read.

The roll of causes transmitted from the Committee of bills, called for, produced, and read.

At Mr Macintosh's request, agreed to take up the cause of Dalton before the cause of Moy.

A Committee appointed to consider the reference from the presbytery of Dunkeld, and to report concerning the riot therein mentioned.

Synod-

A B R I D G M E N T. 1786.

Synod-books called for. The Synod-book of Angus and Mearns produced, and a Committee appointed to revise the same. None of the other Synod-books were brought up. Resolved, That the reasons for their not being brought up be enquired into.

Proceeded to consider the objection to the commission from the burgh of Whithorn, viz. "That the attestation of the Kirk-session had the word *Minister* in place of *Moderator* after the name of the attestor." The objection repelled, and the commission sustained.

His Majesty's royal warrant for L. 1000 Sterling, delivered to the Assembly by his Grace the Commissioner, read, ordered to be recorded, and delivered to the Procurator.

A petition and memorial for the Northumberland Class of Protestant Dissenting Ministers, given in, and read. The Assembly recommended to all Presbyteries carefully to avoid doing any thing that should tend to disturb the peace and union of the Dissenting Classes of Protestants in Northumberland, and other parts; and appointed their Moderator to write a letter to the Moderator of the Northumberland Class of Protestant Dissenters, expressing their resolution to preserve the peace and union of the Class, as far as lies in their power.

A dissent and complaint at the instance of Dr Andrew Hunter, and Dr Henry Grieve and others, against a sentence of the Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale, allowing the Presbytery of Linlithgow to proceed in the trials of Mr William Bennet, heard. The Assembly, without a vote, disapproved of the conduct of the Synod, in allowing the Presbytery of Linlithgow to take Mr Bennet on trials, as being contrary to a law of the Church.

Remitted to the particular consideration of the Committee for overtures, to provide an effectual method for preventing such violation of the law in time to come, and appointed them to meet to-morrow morning for that purpose.

The Committee for revising commissions, and the Committee for bills appointed to meet to-morrow morning.

Adjournment.

May 23. 1786. Sess. 5th.

Sederunt.

New commissions produced.

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Resolved

A B R I D G M E N T. 1786.

Resolved to consider the petition of Messrs Scott and Risk, immediately after the causes of Dalton and Moy.

Report of the Committee for overtures, called for, produced, and read.

The Committee for overtures authorised to meet from time to time, and to report concerning the three first overtures against Thursday next.

The overture by Mr Robert Deans, and that by Mr George Skene Keith, ordered to lie on the table.

The roll of causes transmitted from the Committee for bills, called for, produced, and read.

A Committee appointed to consider the petition of Mr Frederick MacLaggan, and to report their opinion on Friday.

The overture from the Synod of Angus and Mearns anent restoring the instructions to the Commission, formerly expunged, read, and dismissed.

Agreed to consider the overtures from the Synod of Fife, and from the Presbytery of Jedburgh, respecting appeals, &c. after the causes that are already fixed. After these, the overtures from the Synods of Fife and Moray relative to contested patronages. And thereafter, the overture from the Synod of Perth and Stirling anent ordination of Elders.

The overture by Professor Hill anent Students in Divinity, remitted to the Committee for overtures, to be considered with others on the same subject.

The Committee on public accounts, &c. and the Committees for revising the Commission, and Royal Bounty Records, appointed to meet to-morrow morning at ten o'clock in the Society-hall.

Proceeded to the consideration of the Sketch of the New Form of Process, which had been prepared by the Committee appointed by last General Assembly for that purpose; and after going so far through the same, adjourned till to-morrow at two o'clock, and agreed to resolve themselves into a Committee of the whole House, for the farther consideration of the above business, to meet to-morrow at eleven o'clock.

Adjournment.

May 24. 1786. Sess. 6th.

Sederunt.

A new commission produced, read, and approved of.

The Procurator, Agent, Clerks, and Printer's accounts, produced, and ordered to lie on the table.

The

ABRIDGMENT. 1786.

The report of the Committee of the whole House appointed to consider the Sketch of the New Form of Process, called for, given in, read, and approved of. The Assembly ordered one thousand copies of the Sketch of the New Form of Process, with the additions and alterations adopted, to be printed, and transmitted as an overture to all the Ministers of the Church of Scotland; and the Agent for the Church is appointed to advertise the Synods and Presbyteries in all the Edinburgh Newspapers, to send for as many copies thereof as will supply the Ministers within their respective bounds, as soon as the Form is published.

Upon a motion, the thanks of the House were delivered from the Chair to the Procurator, for the very great attention and diligence he had bestowed in preparing the Sketch of the New Form of Process; and likewise to the other Members of the Subcommittee, who assisted in revising the same.

The overture by Mr George Skene Keith, anent trying delinquents who are Ministers of the Church of Scotland, read and dismissed.

The complaint at the instance of Jean Purves, relict of John Tuck, feuer in Coldingham, against Mr John Jolly, Minister of Coldingham, heard. The Assembly, in respect Mr Jolly did not, till the month of December 1783, intimate, that the sentence of lesser excommunication was taken off Jean Purves, although he had been appointed to make that intimation on or before the first Sabbath of August that year; and in respect he granted her a certificate in terms injurious to her, and disrespectful to the Commission of the General Assembly, appointed their Moderator to rebuke Mr Jolly at the bar for his disobedience and disrespect to his superiors; and ordained the Kirk-session of Coldingham, upon Jean Purves producing to the Moderator an extract of this judgment, to grant her, within eight days thereafter, a certificate *duly attested*, in these precise words: "That Jean Purves is not under scandal or any Church-censure; that she has a right to all Church-privileges, and may be admitted into any Christian society where providence may order her lot." Mr Jolly was rebuked at the bar accordingly. Against which judgment, Mr Thomson of Carnock entered his dissent.

The

ABRIDGMENT. 1786.

The Committees for overtures and bills, and new applications, and the Committee on Mr Maclaggan's petition, appointed to meet to-morrow morning.

Adjournment.

May 25. 1786. Sess. 7th.

Sederunt.

Bailie Galloway adhered to the dissent of yesterday from the decision in the cause against Mr Jolly.

Report of the Committee for overtures called for, produced, and read.

The Committee on Mr Maclaggan's petition authorised again to meet, with the former powers.

Upon a motion, all the Presbyteries of the Church are enjoined to take under their consideration the Sketch of the New Form of Process, on or before the first of December next, and to transmit their reports to the Agent for the Church, on or before the first of May next, in order that the Procurator (who has offered to take the trouble) may have it in his power to class the different reports before the sitting of the next General Assembly.

Two appeals at the instance of Dr William Bryden, Minister of Dalton, from two several sentences of the Synod of Dumfries, in the cause at the instance of Robert Henderson of Cleugh-heads, and others, against him; and a reference by the Synod of Dumfries, and another by the Presbytery of Lochmaben, heard. Agreed to consider, 1st, the Appeal at the instance of Dr Bryden, and the Presbytery of Lochmaben, from a sentence of the Synod of Dumfries, of date the 18th October last, reversing an interlocutor of the Presbytery of Lochmaben, of date the 2d August last, which finds the condescendence, with respect to the first article of the libel anent Ann Dalzell, irrelevant to be admitted to proof. After reasoning, a motion was made and seconded, to affirm the sentence of the Synod of Dumfries. Another motion was made and seconded, to reverse the said sentence. The question was then put, *Affirm* or *Reverse*; and the roll being called, and votes marked, it carried by a great majority, *Affirm*. The Assembly, therefore, affirmed the sentence of the Synod of Dumfries; then proceeded to consider the appeal from a sentence of the Synod of Dumfries, at the instance of Dr Bryden, of date the 19th of October last, affirming a sentence of the Presbytery of Lochmaben, of date the 2d of August last, finding

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finding a condescendence with respect to Marion Waugh, relevant to be admitted to proof. The Assembly dismissed the appeal, and affirmed the sentences of the Presbytery of Lochmaben, and Synod of Dumfries. Thereafter proceeded to consider the reference by the Synod of Dumfries, of date the 19th October last, of an appeal by the prosecutors of Dr Bryden, from a sentence of the Presbytery of Lochmaben, pronounced on the 4th day of October last, finding, that, by the sentence of last General Assembly, limiting the time of examining witnesses before the Presbytery, to the first day of October last, and which being past, they were precluded from examining the witnesses mentioned in the execution of diligence produced. The Assembly reversed the sentence of the Presbytery of Lochmaben. Delayed consideration of the reference by the Presbytery of Lochmaben, of 2d May instant, till to-morrow.

The Committees for overtures and bills appointed to meet to-morrow morning.

The Committee on new applications, and the Committee on the reference from the Presbytery of Dunkeld, also appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

May 26. 1786. Sess. 8th.

Sederunt.

Report of the Committee for overtures called for, given in, and read.

Agreed to consider the whole overtures on the table to-morrow.

Report of the Committee for bills, called for, given in, and read.

Agreed to hear the cause of Orwell on Monday.

A petition for Mr James Dickson, Printer for the Church, read. The Assembly unanimously granted the desire thereof, and renewed the grant to Mr Dickson of the sole right of printing and publishing the Translations and Paraphrases of Holy Scripture, for the space of nine years from this period.

The Committee on the Enzie fund renewed, with the former powers.

A petition for the Managers of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, praying to renew the collection ordered by last Assembly, upon such parishes as had not had an opportunity of making such collection, read. The

Assembly renewed the collection upon such parishes as have not had an opportunity of making the same, and appointed the money collected, to be transmitted to Mr Archibald Hope, Secretary to the Royal Bank of Scotland, and Treasurer to the Royal Infirmary.

Resumed consideration of the reference by the Presbytery of Lochmaben, of the 2d of May instant, in the process at the instance of Mr Henderson of Cleugh-heads, and others, against Dr William Bryden, Minister of Dalton; and upon a motion, the Assembly found the proof in this cause not concluded. Thereafter proceeded to consider of the requisition of the Presbytery of Lochmaben, for advice, directions and instructions in the said cause; and after reasoning, a motion was made and seconded, "That the General Assembly remit, with a recommendation to the Presbytery to proceed with all convenient speed in this cause, according to the rules of the Church." Another motion was made and seconded, "That they judge, it being understood that, if it carries *judge*, the Assembly proceed to hear parties upon the relevancy of the interrogatories." A state of the vote was then put, *Remit* or *Judge*, and the roll being called, and votes marked, it carried, *Remit*. The Assembly therefore remitted to the Presbytery of Lochmaben, with a recommendation to proceed in this cause with all convenient speed, according to the rules of the Church.

A petition for Donald Macqueen, of Corryburgh, and others, Heritors, Elders, and heads of families, in the parish of Moy and Dalarossie, libellers of Mr James Macintosh, Minister of these united parishes, petition for the said Mr Macintosh, and a reference by the Synod of Moray, heard; and after reasoning, a motion was made, That the General Assembly, in respect the judgment of the Presbytery, deposing Mr Macintosh, was pronounced during the dependence of an appeal duly lodged, reverse the said judgment, and remit to the Presbytery to resume the consideration of the cause; and, on the application of the parties, to proceed according to the laws of the Church. Another motion was made, That the Assembly proceed to judge of the two appeals in this cause, in the order in which they were taken. A state of the vote was then put, *First* or *Second* motion; and the roll being called, and votes marked, it carried *Second*. Therefore the Assembly proceeded to judge of

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of the two appeals from the sentence of the Presbytery of Inverness, in the order in which they were taken. Then took under consideration the first appeal from the sentence, of date March 1. 1786, finding Mr Macintosh's proof closed, in respect he was appointed by the sentence of the Synod of Moray, in April 1785, to have it closed previous to that day; and after reasoning, the Assembly, without a vote, waved judging of both appeals, and remitted to the Presbytery of Inverness to examine Andrew Noble and Janet Davidson, and no other witness, these two being the only witnesses whom Mr Macintosh had desired the Presbytery to examine; or to grant commission for examining them, to the Presbytery within the bounds of which they reside: And ordained Mr Macintosh to apply to the Presbytery for that purpose, before the first of August next, and to finish his proof against the first of March 1787. And if Mr Macintosh does not finish his proof against said day, ordained the Presbytery of Inverness to hold his proof as closed, and to judge on the whole proof. Against which judgment, Mr Thomson of Carnock entered his dissent.

Adjournment.

May 27. 1786. Sess. 9th.

Sederunt.

Act, approving of the account of Mr William Robertson Advocate, Procurator for the Church, and exonerating and discharging Mr Robertson of the sum disbursed by him, and appointing that he debit himself in his next account with the sum of L. 6: 4: 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ Sterling, being the balance due by him.

Act, approving of the account of Mr George Cairncross, Agent for the Church, and exonerating and discharging Mr Cairncross of the sum disbursed by him, and appointing that he credit himself in his next account with the sum of L. 23: 12: 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ Sterling, being the balance due to him.

The account of the expence of the New Form of Process, due to William Murray clerk, appointed by the Committee thereon, ordered to be paid.

The account of stationary-ware, due by the Clerks to Mr Elphinston Balfour, ordered to be paid.

The account of Mr James Dickson, Printer for the Church, ordered to be paid.

Report

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Report of the Committee appointed to consider new applications for shares of the public money, &c. read, and approved of.

The process anent the church-yard dikes at Lauder, remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church to carry it on at the public expence.

The process of augmentation at the instance of Mr George Macleish, Minister of Skipness and Saddel, remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, to carry it on at the public expence. And further, the Procurator authorised to pay to Mr Macleish the sum of L. 15 Sterling, in respect the object of the manse, glebe, and grafs, mentioned in his petition, are already obtained without any aid from the Church.

The petition of Mr William Milligan, Minister of Kirkden, refused.

The Procurator authorised to pay to Mr William Sutherland, Minister at Wick, the sum of L. 30 Sterling, against the term of Whitsunday next.

The petition of Mr Richard Scott, Minister at Ewes, refused.

The Procurator authorised to pay to Mr Frederick MacLaggan, Minister of Melrose, the sum of L. 15 Sterling.

The process of augmentation at the instance of Mr Andrew Dishington, Minister of Yell in Zetland, remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, to carry it on at the public expence.

The visitors of the Commission-record reported, that they had no remarks to make. The Commission's conduct approved. The Assembly's thanks given from the Chair to the Moderator of the Commission, for their faithfulness and diligence in the affairs committed to them, and the record ordered to be attested.

The report of the Committee for naming the members of the Commission of this Assembly, and preparing instructions for them, given in, and approved of.

The report of the visitors of the Royal Bounty record called for; the conduct of the managers approved of, and their book ordered to be attested.

A Committee named for managing the Royal Bounty this year, with a commission and instructions to them.

The Synod-book of Angus and Mearns ordered to be attested.

All the other Synod-books ordered to be brought up to next Assembly.

Report

Report of the Committee appointed by last General Assembly, on the scheme for erecting new parishes in the Highlands and Islands, was given in, and read.

The report of the Trustees of the Fund established by Act of Parliament for a provision to Ministers Widows, &c. containing an account of their proceedings since last General Assembly, and a state of the fund under their management, being given in, the same was ordered to lie on the table till next diet; and, upon a motion, Sir Henry Moncrieff-Wellwood was congratulate from the Chair upon his happy recovery from his late indisposition, and the thanks of the House given to him, for his great care and attention to the said fund.

The overture for a declaratory act, that in case of dissents and protests, for leave to complain of Presbyteries sentences respecting the licensing of Probationers, on the ground of their acting contrary to the Act of Assembly 1782, that the effect of such dissent and protest shall be to sist the actual licensing of such Probationer till the complaint is dismissed, was withdrawn.

The following overture, *viz.* "That such an indulgence as shall seem meet to the Assembly, may be granted to the Students having the Gaelic language, in the Northern and Western Isles," transmitted to Presbyteries for their consideration. *Vide Printed Acts.*

All the overtures anent licensing Probationers, remitted to a Committee, to consider the same, and to report to the next General Assembly.

The overture from the Synod of Fife, and the overture from the Presbytery of Jedburgh, anent appeals, remitted to a Committee to consider the same, and to report to next General Assembly.

The overture from the Presbytery of Jedburgh, anent extracts from the records of Assembly, dismissed.

The overtures from the Synod of Fife, and from the Synod of Moray, anent contested patronages, dismissed.

The overture from the Synod of Perth and Stirling, anent qualifications of Elders, remitted to the Committee on the overtures anent appeals.

The overture by Mr Robert Deans, remitted to the Committee on the overtures, anent licensing Probationers.

Report of the Sub-committee appointed to class returns to overtures, transmitted, called for, produced, and read.

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The two following overtures retransmitted by last Assembly, *viz.* 1st, Recommendation respecting ordination to the office of a Minister, without relation to a particular charge: 2^d, Overture respecting the ordination of Elders, together with the interim act, appointed to be again transmitted. *Vide* Printed Acts.

An appeal at the instance of Mr John Scott, Minister of Avandale, from a sentence of the Presbytery of Hamilton, of date the 25th April last, finding a libel at his instance, against Mr William Gilmour, preacher of the gospel, and catechist in said parish, informal, irrelevant, and unnecessary, heard. After reasoning, a motion was made, "That the General Assembly reverse the sentence of the Presbytery of Hamilton appealed from, and find the libel relevant; and remit the same to the Presbytery of Hamilton to be admitted to proof, according to the rules of the Church." Another motion was made, "To affirm the sentence of the Presbytery of Hamilton." The state of the vote was then put, *Affirm* or *Reverse*; and the roll being called, and votes marked, it carried by a great majority, *Reverse*. The Assembly, therefore, reversed the sentence of the Presbytery of Hamilton appealed from, and found the libel relevant, and remitted the same to the Presbytery of Hamilton, to be admitted to proof, according to the rules of the Church.

Adjournment.

May 29. 1786. *Sess. ult.*

Sederunt.

Upon report of the Committee appointed to consider the reference by the Presbytery of Dunkeld, relative to the riot by Mr Rattray of Dalrulzian, in the kirk of Kirkmichael; the Assembly remitted to the Procurator to enquire into the facts set forth in the said reference, and empowered him, if he should see cause, to bring a process against the party concerned therein, before the competent court, and to carry on the same at the public expence.

The report of the Trustees for managing the Fund for a provision to Ministers Widows, &c. containing a state of the fund under their management, and an account of their proceedings since last Assembly, again called for, and ordered to be recorded in the separate register kept for that purpose.

List of Probationers produced, and ordered to be recorded.

The

A B R I D G M E N T. 1786.

The memorial for the subscribers resident in the city of Quebec, craving aid by collection, or otherwise, ordered to lie on the table.

Upon report of the Committee appointed to consider the petition of Mr Frederick Maclaggan, the Assembly allowed them again to sit, and to take such steps for the accommodation of Mr Maclaggan and his parishioners, as they should think prudent or expedient, and to report to next General Assembly.

Two appeals at the instance of James Simpson of Mawcarfe, and others, Heritors and heads of families of the parish of Orwell, from two sentences of the Synod of Fife, of date 11th of October last, heard. And after reasoning, the Assembly unanimously dismissed the appeals, and affirmed the sentences of the Synod of Fife appealed from; and sustained the call in favour of Mr Patrick Spence, to be assistant and successor to his father in the parish of Orwell; and appointed the Presbytery of Dunfermline to proceed to his settlement with all convenient speed, according to the rules of the Church.

All causes before this Assembly, and not determined by them, and causes remitted by former Assemblies, and not determined, referred to the Commission, with power to them to judge and finally determine therein.

Protestations admitted.

A Committee named to revise the minutes of the Assembly's proceedings at this, and all the other diets thereof, and to pitch upon such of the Acts of Assembly as are to be standing rules, in order to their being printed.

The minutes of this sederunt were read; the minutes of former sederunts having been read at the diets subsequent thereto.

The Moderator's speech to the General Assembly, and his Majesty's Commissioner.

The Lord High Commissioner's speech to the Assembly. Act appointing next General Assembly of this Church, to meet on May 17. 1787.

The Assembly concluded with prayer, singing a psalm, and pronouncing the blessing.

F I N I S.

The memorial for the last time resident in the city of
Glasgow, craving aid for collection, or otherwise, or-
dered to lie on the table.

Upon report of the Committee appointed to consider the
petition of Mr. Frederick Macgregor, the Assembly
advised them to insist on the right to take their seats
the accommodation of Mr. Macgregor and his party.
However, as they thought that judgment or experience
and to report to the General Assembly.

Two seats at the instance of James Simpson of New-
castle, and others, petitioners and heads of families of
the parish of Orwell, from the town of Orwell, the Synod
of date 17th of October last, heard. And
after reasoning, the Assembly unanimously dismissed
the appeals, and affirmed the sentence of the Synod
of Orwell, and affirmed the fall in fa-
vor of Mr. Patrick Bruce, to be sufficient and inces-
sant to his father in the parish of Orwell; and appoint-
ed the Presbytery of Dunfermline to proceed to his
sequestration with all convenient speed, according to the
rules of the Church.

All causes before this Assembly, and not determined by
them, and causes remitted by former Assemblies,
and not determined, referred to the Commission, with
power to them to judge and finally determine there-
on.

Proclamations submitted.
A Committee named to revise the minutes of the As-
sembly's proceedings at this, and all the other diets
thereof, and to pitch upon such of the Acts of As-
sembly as are to be standing rules, in order to their
being printed.

The minutes of this diet were read; the minutes
of former diets having been read at the diets
subsequent thereto.

The Moderator's speech to the General Assembly, and
his Majesty's Commission, read to the Assembly.

The Lord High Commissioner's speech to the Assembly.
Appointing next General Assembly of this Church,
to meet on May 17, 1785.

The Assembly concluded with prayer, singing a psalm,
and pronouncing the blessing.